

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

-----260145Z 111978 /13

R 251817Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7679

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GW UG US

SUBJECT: UGANDA: AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN'S THINKING

1. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN, WHO REPRESENTED US INTERESTS IN KAMPALA FOR THREE YEARS, ELLERKMANN EXPRESSED FOLLOWING THOUGHTS:

-- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST BE REPRESENTED IN KAMPALA FOR THE SAKE OF THE UGANDAN PEOPLE. A WESTERN PRESENCE ALSO SERVES TO COUNTERACT THE GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REOPEN ITS EMBASSY. HE BELIEVES IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT, IF WE DID REOPEN THE EMBASSY, THE SAFETY OF OUR PERSONNEL WOULD SIX MONTHS LATER BE IN JEOPARDY.

-- THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZED DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO AMIN. HE HAS KILLED ALL HIS IMPORTANT OPPONENTS AND WILL IN THE FUTURE KILL ANY PERSON WHO OBTAINS ENOUGH POWER AND/OR PRESTIGE TO BECOME A POSSIBLE RIVAL.

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-- THE LESS SAID ABOUT POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY AMIN IN THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE THE BETTER. ELLERKMANN RECOMMENDED THAT THE BRITISH DECIDE NOT TO ADMIT AMIN, BUT NOT TELL HIM. THIS WAY THEY CAN AVOID HAVING AMIN FORCE THE ISSUE, WHICH HE WOULD LOVE TO DO. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, AMIN LIKES TO KEEP OTHER PEOPLE GUESSING ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS. HE WILL, THEREFORE,

INDICATE THAT HE IS GOING TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE,  
EVEN IF HE DOES NOT PLAN TO DO SO.

-- THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF AMIN'S C-130 IS TO BRING  
DUTY FREE ITEMS FROM WESTERN EUROPE FOR AMIN'S  
SUPPORTERS. SUPPLY OF THESE ITEMS IS AN ESSENTIAL  
ELEMENT IN MAINTAINING LOYALTY OF THE MILITARY AND  
OTHER PRIVILEGED PEOPLE.

2. ELLERKMANN SEEMED TO BE VERY PROUD OF HAVING  
REPRESENTED THE US IN KAMPALA. HE STATED THAT NOT  
ONE OF THE 240 US CITIZENS RESIDENT IN UGANDA  
CONTEMPLATED ACCEPTING UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP IN THE  
CRISIS OF LAST MARCH. HE PREDICTED THAT NONE OF THESE  
US CITIZENS WOULD LEAVE UGANDA. THEY ARE FOR THE  
MOST PART MISSIONARIES AND ARE DETERMINED TO  
STAY WITH THE UGANDAN PEOPLE.

3. ELLERKMANN HAS BEEN REASSIGNED TO BONN. HIS  
SPECIFIC DUTIES ARE NOT CLEAR AT THIS STAGE.  
STOESSEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, GE, UG, US, (ELLERKMANN, RICHARD)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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